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Cyber-Alice and Inaba-kun [Story & Characters]

Welcome to Alice's Room

CHARACTERS

ALICE
A MYSTERIOUS MASTER CRACKER WHO APPEARS AS A CHARACTER IN "ALICE IN CYBERLAND"...??

KIRYUU SERIYA
THE SON OF THE KIRYUU GROUP THAT DEVELOPED "ALICE IN CYBERLAND".

INABA SHUUICHI
A SELF-STYLED "GENIUS" WHO ATTENDS SAIONJI ACADEMY. HE HAS A POSITIVE PERSONALITY.

ABIRU NODOKA
SHUUICHI'S CLASSMATE, A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL GIFTED WITH BOTH INTELLIGENCE AND BEAUTY WHO HAS A GENTLE DISPOSITION.

WHAT'S "ALICE IN CYBERLAND"?
AN APPLICATION DEVELOPED BY THE KIRYUU GROUP WHICH ALLOWS USERS TO TALK TO CHARACTERS ON THE INTERNET. IT IS BECOME EXTREMELY POPULAR ALL AROUND THE WORLD

LILY
SHUUICHI'S "ALICE IN CYBERLAND" CHARACTER

STORY

THE PERPLEXED WHITE RABBIT HAS GONE ASTRAY IN WONDERLAND---

INABA SHUUICHI IS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATTENDING SAIONJI ACADEMY. THE STUDENTS HAVE BECOME UNEASY DUE TO A SERIES OF ATTACKS, AND BECAUSE HE WANTED TO SHOW NODOKA A COOL SIDE OF HIMSELF, INABA DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE THE CASE. HE HAD REACHED THE LIMITS OF THE LITTLE INFORMATION HE HAD WHEN HIS CLASSMATE, KIRYUU, TOLD HIM ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF A MYSTERIOUS GENIUS CRACKER CALLED "ALICE". WITHOUT DELAY, KIRYUU AND THE OTHERS USED "ALICE IN CYBERLAND" AND TRIED TO CONTACT HER... BUT THE CONNECTION FAILED. LATER THAT NIGHT, HOWEVER, SHUUICHI WAS CONTACTED BY "ALICE"---

THE STORY CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE!

ANOTHER CHARACTER

KUROSE MASUTO
SHUUICHI'S CLASSMATE. A QUIET GUY WHO TOOK A BREAK FROM SCHOOL

KUZE
A DETECTIVE WITH THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WHO'S INVESTIGATING THE RECENT ATTACKS

「裏のハローワーク」
異才・草下シンヤと俊英・藤也卓巳の強力タッグで贈る学園電脳ミステリー!!

電脳アリスと因幡くん

Cyber-Alice and Inaba-kun

原作 Kusaka Shinya 草下シンヤ
漫画 Fujinari Takumi 藤也卓巳

MEETING WITH THE PERPLEXED WHITE RABBIT--
I AM
ALICE.
WA-
.....
THE BUTTONS AREN'T WORKING EITHER. WHY IS IT ACTING ON ITS OWN!?
WAAAH!
WAAH!
WHAT-
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?
COULD YOU CALM DOWN A LITTLE?
YOU...
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO CALM DOWN!?
HUH!?
SO YOU'RE INABA-KUN.
shhp

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?
THAT'S MY AVATAR
IT CAME UP FROM THE DATA, YOUR NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH, THAT YOU TOLD ME PREVIOUSLY.
KSSSSH
UWAH!!
YOU CAN EVEN DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT!?
KRRRK
KSHSHS
YES,
HEY....
HEY!!
BUT DIDN'T YOU MAKE IT A LITTLE TOO HANDSOME?
IN REALITY—

KYAAH!
VANK
BEFORE THAT—
YOU'RE HORRIBLE..
YOU LOOK LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
COMPLETELY CRUSHED
ABOUT THIS.
LILY!
YOU'RE HURTING ME! STOP IT, STOP IT!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO LILY!?
THAT'S SIMPLE.

HIIIH!
I'LL SHOOT YOU.
SHUT UP OR
CLICK
THIS ALSO CAME FROM A MERE PROGRAM.
SAVE ME...!!
INA-CHAN,
OW OW OWWW!
LET GO OF LILY!!
IT...
IT DOES MATTER!
NOT REALLY. IT'S JUST A PROGRAM, SO IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I DO TO IT, RIGHT?
THAT'S CRUEL!!

YOU SAID
GAH...
THAT YOU WANTED TO SEE MY POWER, DIDN'T YOU?
.....!
.....
WELL, WHATEVER.
SHHH
tap tap
PU
GET LOST.

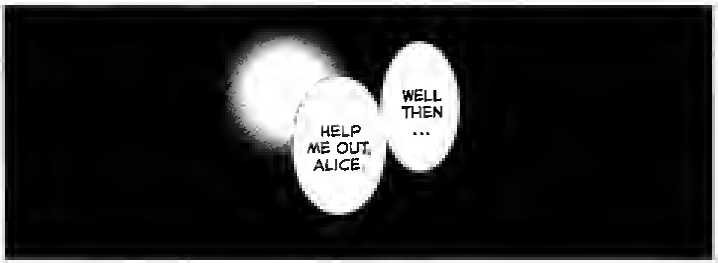
...ANYWAY, HOW ARE YOU CONTROLLING MY CELL PHONE?
SIGH
NETWORKS ARE LIKE ROADS,
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?
AND ON EACH ROAD THERE IS A GATE
AT THE GATE, A GATEKEEPER STANDS GUARD
...HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO GATEKEEPER AT YOUR PLACE, AND THE DOOR WAS LEFT OPEN.
YOU ASKED HOW I WAS ABLE TO ENTER YOUR CELL PHONE?
IT'S NORMAL TO ENTER A DOOR THAT'S OPEN
CLIMB OVER THE GATE, BREAK IT, ENTER THROUGH THE BACK, OR PRETEND TO BE THAT PERSON TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT
IF ONE HAS THE RIGHT INFORMATION THEY CAN ENTER AND DO THINGS LIKE BRIBE THE GATEKEEPER,

SINCE THE DOOR WAS LEFT OPEN,
ASKING ME HOW I GOT IN WAS NONSENSICAL FROM THE START.
I SIMPLY ENTERED THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR.
...!
THUD
AMAZING—
THIS PERSON
IS PROBABLY A GENIUS WHO RIVALS EVEN ME...!
I UNDERSTAND, ALICE.
I'LL TELL YOU MY SECRET.

.....

SINCE YOU TOLD ME SUCH AN EMBARRASSING SECRET,
SNICKER
I WILL TAKE YOUR REQUEST.

I
I UNDERSTAND.


WELL THEN ...
HELP ME OUT, ALICE.

INABA-KUN.
I GOT AN EMAIL.
IT SAID THAT I SHOULD COOPERATE WITH YOU.
AH-
I GOT THAT EMAIL TOO.
OH? IN THAT CASE, HELP ME OUT.
BUT... WHAT SECRET DID YOU TELL HER?
THAT'S I'D RATHER NOT SAY.

WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT WITH ALICE?
FOR THE TIME BEING WE JUST SPOKE ABOUT THE CASE.
YAGI-HASHI'S,
MAKI-TA'S
AND NOZAWA'S ATTACKS.

...AND THEN? DID SHE GIVE YOU ANY INSTRUC-TIONS?
SHE TOLD ME TO WAIT FOR NOW.
BUT IF WE DO THAT, WON'T THERE BE ANOTHER VICTIM?
THAT'S PROBABLY TRUE, BUT SHE LEFT WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING ELSE.
WHEN I RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS, WILL YOU GIVE ME YOUR CO-OPERATION TOO, KIRYUU?
OF COURSE! WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO, JUST SAY THE WORD!
SINCE I WANT TO SOCIALIZE WITH YOU WITHOUT ANY FAVORITISM.
grin
.....
VNH VNH
AH, I GOT AN EMAIL.

HUH?
TODAY RETURN HOME ON YOUR USUAL PATH ALONE
ALONE?
THAT'S THE INSTRU-CTION?

'RETURN HOME ALONE', SHE SAID...
WHY THE HELL WOULD SHE WANT THAT?
CREEP
WHOOSH

BASH
.....!!
WHAT THE...
stagger
THUMP
HELL ...!?

TAP
TAP
TAP
DAMN... IT..
RUSH
TCH
SEE?
THAT WAS FUN, WASN'T IT?

THAT'S THE SPIRIT. YOU'RE GOING TO TRIUMPH OVER ALL OF THE GUYS WHO HAVE BEEN LOOKING DOWN ON YOU.
YEAH... IT WAS.
THERE ARE MANY, MANY, MANY MORE HUMANS YOU NEED TO ATTACK.
THE GUY WHO THINKS HE CAN CATCH ME IS IN MY WAY ...
GRIN
YOU CAN DEFINITELY DO IT.

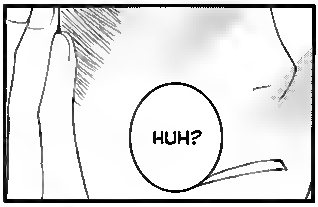
AND YOU HAVEN'T REPORTED IT YET?
NO WAY, I DIDN'T THINK OF IT AS BEING ATTACKED
I CAN'T DO SOMETHING AS UNCOOL AS STOPPING AFTER ALL I INTEND OF THIS. TO CATCH THE CULPRIT.
EVEN YOU WERE ATTACKED, INABA-KUN...?
EH!?
I SEE ...
WELL, DID YOU SEE THE CRIMINAL'S FACE?
NO, I WASN'T ABLE TO SEE ANYTHING.
WHEN I TRIED TO COMPLAIN TO HER SHE WAS UNAVAILABLE, SO SHE COULDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING.
NOT AVAILABLE.
ALICE KNEW THAT YOU WERE GOING TO BE ATTACKED. DIDN'T SHE, INABA-KUN?
PROBABLY.

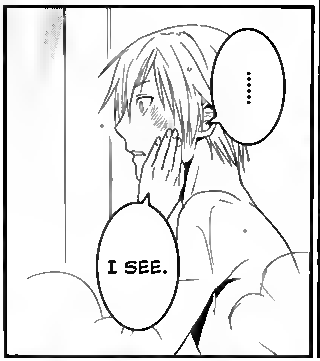
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
Aa— That looks painful.
DETE-CTIVE KUZE.
HEY!
I JUST FELL DOWN, THAT'S ALL.
FELL DOWN?
GRRR...
WHAT!?
THE RANDOM ATTACKER IS GOING TO BE CAUGHT BY ME.
AN AMA-TEUR LIKE YOU SHOULD STEP ASIDE AFTER ALL.
ISN'T IT THE WORK OF THE RANDOM ATTA-CKER?

AHH...
splash
AT ANY RATE,
HE REALLY LAID INTO ME WITH ALL HIS MIGHT.
The criminal went through great pains to come from behind and avoid being hit, let alone caught...
I still don't know his face or his physique.
Since I was unprepared when he landed the finishing blow from behind,

DAMN IT.
BUT WITH THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS, IT'S UNLIKELY THAT DETECTIVE KUZE HAS GOTTEN HIS HANDS ON ANY CLUES
SPLASH
AN AMATEUR LIKE YOU SHOULD STEP ASIDE AFTER ALL----
TCH .

So far, none of the victims have anything in common.
Even with my addition, no common features come to mind
Besides, even if Alice knew I was going to be attacked,
why would she tell me to return home alone?


HUH?

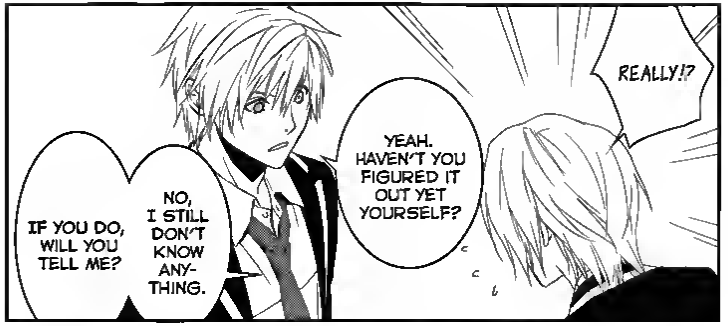

.....
I SEE.

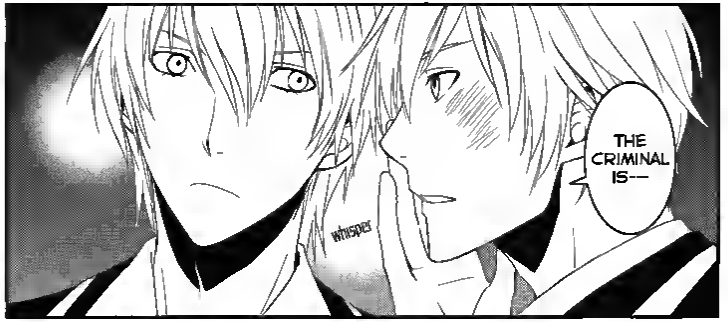
IN THE END, I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING...?
UWAH, IT REALLY HAS BECOME A HORRIBLE MARK...

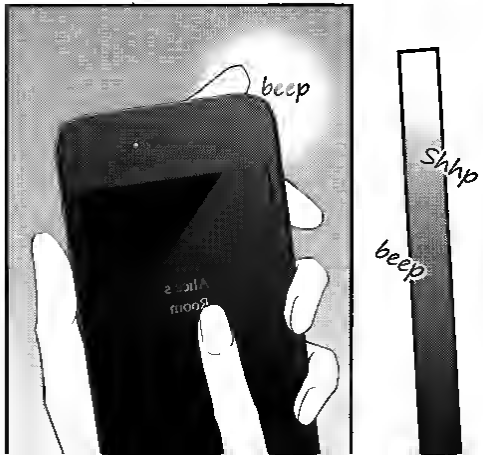
I WAS ATTACKED SO THAT I COULD REALIZE THIS?!
SHE'S A GENIUS!
I'm also a genius for realizing it!!

YOKOTA...
HAYA-SHIDA,

KUROSE---
I GET IT AFTER ALL.
NOD NOD
INABA-KUN.
ARE YOU NODDING TO YOUR SELF SO VIOLENTLY?
KIRYUU ...
I KNOW WHO THE CRIMINAL IS.
grin
WHAT!?


REALLY!?
YEAH. HAVEN'T YOU FIGURED IT OUT YET YOURSELF?
NO, I STILL DON'T KNOW ANY-THING.
IF YOU DO, WILL YOU TELL ME?

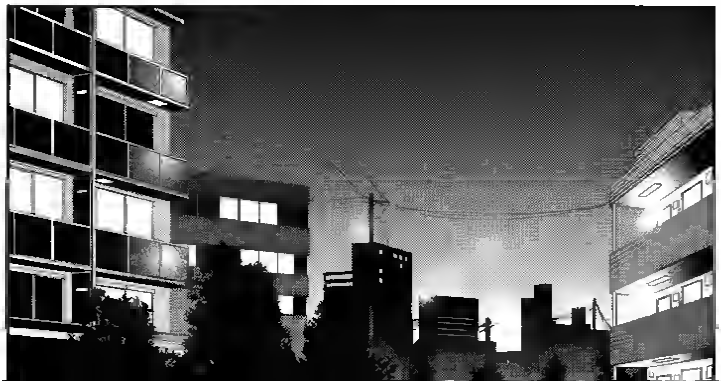

THE CRIMINAL IS—
whisper


beep
Shhp
beep

.....
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU KNOW WHO THE CRIMINAL IS.
YEAH.
YOU'RE THERE,
AREN'T YOU, ALICE?

BUT REALLY, YOU ARE A COLD-HEARTED PERSON.
YOU WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY TO GET ME ATTACKED FOR THE SAKE OF SHOWING ME THE ANSWER.
I SEE.
THAT'S GOOD.
I AM A PROGRAM TO THE BITTER END.
I CAN HELP,
BUT IN THE END I CAN'T MOVE LIKE A HUMAN.
.....
SO, WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?
CAN I GO CAPTURE HIM ALREADY?
NOT YET.
TOMORROW NIGHT
YOU'RE GOING TO TAIL THE SUSPECT

TOMO-RROW?
IN MY OPINION, THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE NEXT ATTACK HAPPENING TOMORROW IS HIGH.
IN THAT CASE, SHOULD I GO ALONE THIS TIME TOO?
NO.
.....
GOT IT.
SHE... HAS NO FAITH IN ME...
IF YOU'RE ALONE WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, THE SITUATION WILL BECOME UNMANAGEABLE, RIGHT?
I THINK YOU SHOULD GO ALONG WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

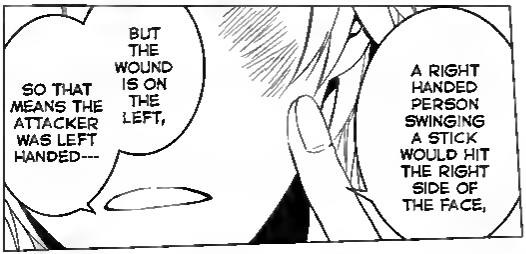


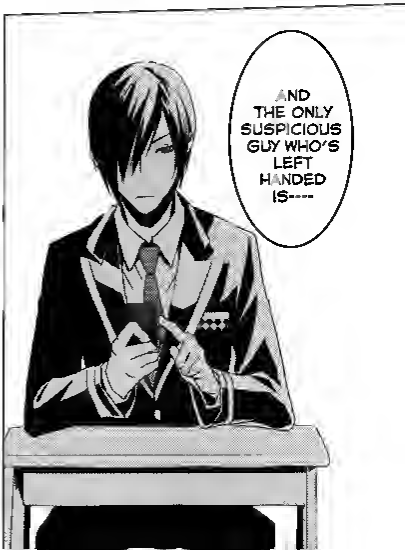
WILL IT REALLY BE TODAY?
SHUSH.
KAK
KAK

KUROSE---
LET'S GO.
TAP
TAP
NO WAY... THE CRIMINAL WAS SO SUSPICIOUS THAT HE BECAME A BLIND SPOT.
I GUESS SO.

THE OTHER VICTIMS AND I WERE ALL ATTACKED FROM BEHIND WITH WOUNDS ON THE LEFT SIDES OF OUR FACES, RIGHT?
YEAH.
point
LEFT HAND-ED?

THE CRIMINAL —— IS LEFT HANDED.


SO THAT MEANS THE ATTACKER WAS LEFT HANDED---
BUT THE WOUND IS ON THE LEFT,
A RIGHT HANDED PERSON SWINGING A STICK WOULD HIT THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE FACE,



TAP
TAP
DASH
AHH!!
I DON'T KNOW.
WHO IS HE TARGETING?

DAM-MIT!
LET'S GO!!
INABA-KUN!
THAT'S ...!
NODOKA---!?
SHIT! IF THINGS CONTINUE LIKE THIS, NODOKA WILL BE ATTACKED BY KUROSE---
HUH!?

TAP
TAP
SWOO
THAT'S---
HUH?
NODOKA!!

INABA-KUN?
dash
SHIT!
AH! INABA-KUN!

tap tap tap
SWOOSH
HERE,
TAKE THIS
KURUSE?
KACH
CHEH!
ZSHH

WHAT!?
INABA-KUN...!?
GET BACK, NODOKA!
DASH
D-
DAMMIT...!!
HOLD IT!!

THUD
GRAR
HEY!
WAIT A SECOND!
..TCH!
WAH!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
tap tap
KUZE-SAN!?
LET GO OF ME!
KUZE-SAN, WHY ARE YOU HERE!?
I SHOULD BE THE ONE ASKING YOU THAT
ERR.. NO...

I GOT AN EMAIL FROM AN UNKNOWN SENDER.
IT SAID THE ATTACKER WOULD COME OUT AROUND HERE TODAY.
SINCE THE TRANSMISSION WENT THROUGH A GREAT NUMBER OF OVERSEAS PROVIDERS, I WASN'T ABLE TO PINPOINT WHO THE SENDER WAS.
差出人
件名
お知らせまで。
I THOUGHT IT HAD LITTLE CREDIBILITY
BUT I FELT UNEASY ABOUT IT, AND WHEN I WENT TO PATROL JUST IN CASE,
THIS GUY APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE.
SFX: PULL
NOW THEN, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT HIS FACE!
UWAH!

WHAT!?
YOU...
THE TRUTH WILL BE REVEALED--!
THIS GUY IS THE ATTACKER...?
CYBER-ALICE AND INABA-KUN WILL CONTINUE NEXT ISSUE.